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News Release

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Second of 2 Minneapolis men sentenced for possessing with intent to distribute cocaine

The second of two Minneapolis men was sentenced today in federal court for possessing with intent to distribute cocaine.

On May 27 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge James Rosenbaum sentenced Jaime Olade-Belevin, 28, to 40 months in prison and one year of supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. He pleaded guilty on Jan. 12.

The other defendant, Jose Trinidad Acosta-Silvan, 22, was sentenced on April 27 to 18 months in prison and four years of supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. He pleaded guilty on Jan. 22. Both men were indicted on Oct. 7, 2008.

According to their respective plea agreements, each admitted that on Sept. 22, 2008, they possessed with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, narcotics investigators were conducting surveillance on an unrelated case on Sept. 22 when they observed two vehicles meet in a parking lot near the intersection of Lake Street and Dupont Avenue in Minneapolis. Olalde-Belevin was observed handing a cardboard 12-pack beer container to another man, who then drove away in a Dodge Durango.

Shortly after the Durango left the parking lot, police conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, and during a search of the vehicle recovered the beer box under the passenger's seat. The beer box contained approximately 250 grams of cocaine, the affidavit states.

As Olalde-Belevin was attempting to leave the parking lot in his vehicle, officers approached and requested consent to look in his vehicle. Olalde-Belevin said he would consent, the affidavit states, but then refused to comply and ran from officers as they attempted to handcuff him. Olalde-Belevin fled, but was later arrested by the Minneapolis Police Department.

A canine officer gave a positive indication for narcotics near the rear of the vehicle. Officers searched the vehicle and recovered approximately \$9,535, and several small bags containing approximately 1-ounce quantities of cocaine and a separate larger bag that contained approximately 250 grams of cocaine.

Police arranged a controlled purchase of cocaine from Acosta-Silvan on Sept. 23 near the intersection of 38th Street and Portland Avenue in Minneapolis. Officers arrested Acosta-Silvan shortly after he arrived at the location at approximately 7 p.m. During a search of his vehicle, authorities recovered approximately 400 grams of cocaine.

This case was the result of an investigation by the DEA and the Minneapolis Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp.